

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BATH NATIVE RECOGNIZED FOR
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AT WORK**

Harrisburg, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today presented Gil Hirschel with the organization's quarterly Spotlight Award, for his exceptional work as Environmental Outreach Coordinator. Hirschel has been with the Commission for 21 years, is a native of Bath, Northampton County, and currently lives and works in Harrisburg, Dauphin County.

The Spotlight Award is presented to a SRBC employee to recognize outstanding job performance during the past 3-month time period, commonly when they have shown exceptional initiative and gone beyond their general job description. In his job, Hirschel combines his extensive knowledge of the Susquehanna River with his enthusiastic presentation skills to give entertaining living-history presentations to various organizations across the state. His role-playing repertoire includes John Bartram, the famed "Father of American Botany" from Pennsylvania, and a "Riverman" from the 1800s, who floats logs and supplies down the Susquehanna and its tributaries to maintain his livelihood. Hirschel also played a key role in preparation for and during the recent annual Pennsylvania Watershed Conference and the first-ever Youth Summit, as SRBC was the primary organizing group. His behind-the-scenes work greatly contributed to the overall success of the conference.

SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz noted that, "I'm constantly impressed with Gil's dedication to educating the general public and his gift for capturing their imagination. I was also impressed with his outstanding work during the Watershed Conference and Youth Summit, and how hard he worked to make the experience entertaining and enjoyable for adults and youth alike."

Hirschel also won the Spotlight Award in April 1996. He earned a master's degree in regional planning from Penn State University, and a bachelor's degree in geography from Kutztown State College. He was hired to work SRBC in 1982, initially as a planner.

SRBC's employee award recipients are nominated and selected by their peers. Hirschel's Spotlight awarded today, is the 27th award presented to an employee since the Commission began its awards program in 1996.

SRBC is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on Dec. 24, 1970 by the federal government and states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and manage wisely the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, Md., where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay.

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